

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC CG

SUBJECT: ELECTION ACTIVITIES WRAPUP, LUBUMBASHI

1. LUBUMBASHI DAILY, MJUMBE, GAVE 6 POINT HEADLINES TO THE CARTER/MONDALE ELECTION VICTORY AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT GREATER PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN RESTORING AFRICA TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD TAKE BOLDER STEPS TO ELIMINATE RACISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. THE PAPER'S HOPEFUL TONE AND OBVIOUS SATISFACTION WITH THE RESULT OF THE ELECTIONS FOLLOWED THREE WEEKS OF HEAVY PROGRAMMING BY USIS LUBUMBASHI TO INFORM LOCAL MEDIA AND LEADERS OF THE MECHANICS AND COMPLEXITIES OF THE AMERICAN ELECTORAL SYSTEM. SINCE OCTOBER 15, THE DATE IT WAS RECEIVED, THE FRENCH VERSION OF THE FIRST FORD/CARTER DEBATE HAS BEEN SHOWN TO CAREFULLY SELECTED AUDIENCES OF JOURNALISTS, PROFESSORS AND REGIONAL AND PARTY OFFICIALS. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION OF THE SECOND (FOREIGN POLICY) DEBATE WAS SHOWN TO AN AUDIENCE OF ENGLISH SPEAKING EUROPEANS AND AFRICANS FROM

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A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND THE COMMUNITY OF AMERICAN TRAINED

ZAIRIAN PROFESSIONALS. EVERY VTR SHOWING STIMULATED NEW INTEREST IN THE ISSUES OF THE ELECTIONS AND NEW DEMANDS FOR LECTURES OR AMERICAN CENTER SPONSORED DEBATES ON THE RELATIVE MERITS OF THE AMERICAN ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND THE CANDIDATES THEMSELVES. DESPITE THE LOSS OF THE POST'S VTR MACHINE ON OCTOBER 27 PROGRAMMING CONTINUED WITH HEAVY WIRELESS FILE PRESS PLACEMENT, PERSONAL APPEARANCES BY THE BPAO BEFORE UNIVERSITY CLASSES AND TELEVISION APPEARANCES BY THE BPAO AND FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR ROBERT RIOUX.

3. PROGRAMMING CULMINATED ON NOVEMBER 3 WITH THE PUBLIC TABULATION OF THE RETURNS AS THEY WERE RECEIVED BY THE WIRES AND BY VOA. STATE BY STATE TABULATION CONTINUED FROM 0630 TO 1200 LOCAL TIME AND WAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 150 INVITED GUESTS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. THE SUSPENSE WAS PUNCTUATED BY QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSIONS LED BY AMERICAN TRAINED UNAZA PROFESSORS AND THE BPAO. FINALLY, AFTER THE MISSISSIPI RETURNS WERE CONFIRMED, A DISCUSSION LED BY THE BPAO, RECENT IVPARTICIPANT MWABILA AND CIT. PROFESSOR BIBOMBE WAS HELD ON "AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS AFRICA UNDER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION". CUTTING THROUGH THE SPECULATION THOUGH WAS THE INTENSE OPTIMISM WITH WHICH THIS COMMUNITY VIEWS A CARTER ADMINISTRATION. AS ONE PARTICIPANT MENTIONED, THE DISCUSSION SHOULD HAVE BEEN TITLED "WHY DO AFRICANS SUPPORT CARTER?" DESPITE THE SIMILARITIES IN THE CANDIDATES' POSTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS THERE WAS DEFINITE SYMPATHY FOR CARTER ON THE PART OF MANY AFRICANS. THIS SYMPATHY AND THE VINDICATION FELT LOCALLY AFTER CARTER'S ELECTION WAS VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE DURING THE POST ELECTION DISCUSSIONS AND EDITORIALS.

4. FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMMING AND PLACEMENT IS CONTINUING AND WILL PEAK WITH AN HOUR LONG TV SPECIAL ON THE ELECTIONS WHICH WILL FEATURE THE BPAO AND A NUMBER OF ZAIRIAN JOURNALISTS AND PROFESSORS.

5. NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE SUCCESS; THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN AND WILL ALWAYS BE THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR USIA TO PUT OUR MESSAGE ACROSS. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THIS SMALL BUT IMPORTANT CORNER OF AFRICA AND THAT THE PROGRAMMING DIVIDENDS IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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COMING MONTHS WILL REFLECT THE NEWLY AWAKENED AWARENESS OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS SOCIAL PROCESSES.
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